



Photo by: Grand Canyon Trust
Culvert protection fence

Learn more about beavers and the important role they play in the ecosystem at www.wildawareutah.org

If you have conflicts with beaver that cannot be resolved with these non-lethal tips, alert the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources office near you.

Cedar City	(435) 865-6100	Salt Lake City	(801) 538-4700
Ogden	(801) 476-2740	Springville	(801) 491-5678
Price	(435) 613-3700	Vernal	(435) 781-9453

Share the Wild - Preventing Flooding

Many plant and animal species benefit from the expansion of wetland habitat as a result of beaver dams, including a wide variety of fish, small mammals, big game, waterfowl and other birds. Beaver dams also provide a host of benefits to humans. They capture spring runoff water behind their dams, which slowly leak water, helping to insure that a stream doesn't go dry during late summer.

Here are some tips to avoid conflicts with beavers.

- Install electric fencing around culverts.
- Create a culvert protective fence in a trapezoid as shown above.
- A simple pond-leveling device can be an easy-to-build solution to flooding from beaver dams. A culvert pipe is installed in an intact beaver dam, and the inlet is sunk into the upstream beaver pond. A cage of heavy welded wire is constructed to prevent beaver from plugging the intake. The outlet end of the pipe can be set higher or lower in the dam depending on the level you wish to maintain in the pond. A pond leveler can be combined with a protective culvert fence in situations where the height of the roadbed is sufficient that a small beaver pond does not pose a threat. Ideally the pond should be left as large as is feasible without creating conflicts. Visit our website for diagrams and more information.
- Do not allow pets to chase or harass beavers.
- As with all wildlife, observe beavers from a safe distance.



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Thank you to Jeremy Christensen, Utah Forest Program Wildlife Associate, Grand Canyon Trust



Some tips on how to avoid conflicts

Wild Aware Utah

Launched in 2010, Wild Aware Utah (WAU) is a non-advocacy conservation program working through collaborative efforts to provide proactive education to minimize conflict between people and wildlife.

www.wildawareutah.org

Beaver can be found along creeks and streams, and in lakes and reservoirs. Beaver cut trees to build dams and water diversions, sometimes creating large ponds. Lodges of sticks and mud are often constructed in these ponds and are used by beaver for shelter, food storage, and the rearing of young. Natural beaver activity often brings them in conflict with humans. They are known to dam irrigation canals and road culverts, leading to maintenance and repairs. Beaver occasionally dine on landscaped trees and cause flooding damage to roads or private property.

The best way to avoid conflicts with wildlife is to prevent issues from arising in the first place.

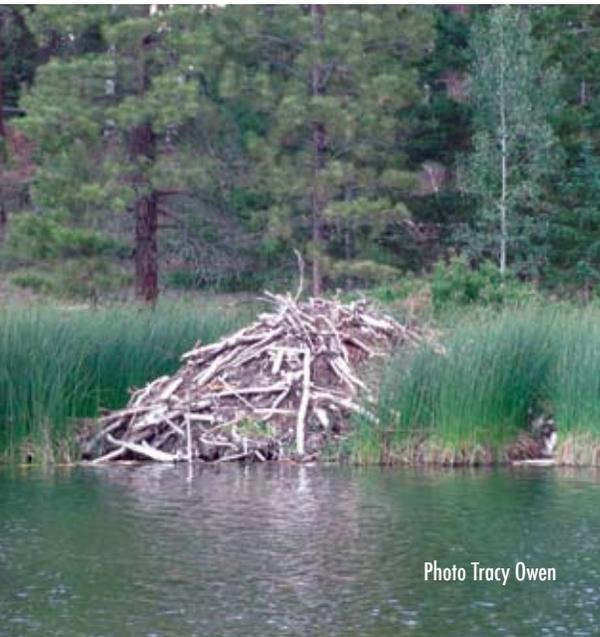
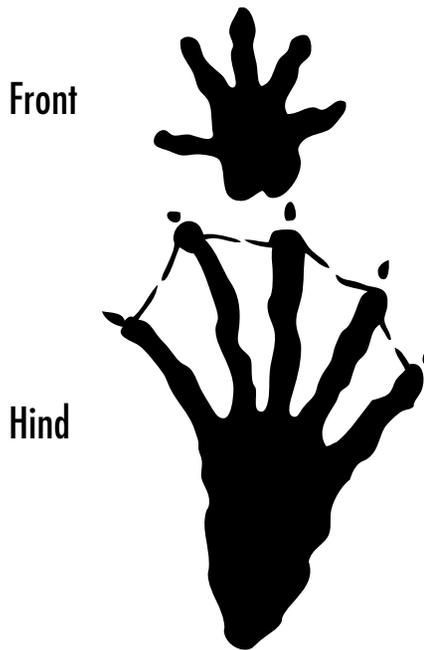


Photo Tracy Owen



Beaver tracks: The front foot is approximately 2-3 ½ inches long with the hind foot being 4-7 inches long. A tail drag print may also be visible.

Share the Wild - Protecting Trees and Plants

Most beaver conflicts can be solved or addressed by being proactive and taking the beaver's needs and behavior into account when planting landscaping. In Utah, aspen, cottonwood and willow are beaver's preferred food. Birch, maple, ash, alder and other woody plants are also utilized when available.

- Fence individual trees and bushes. Heavy 12.5 gauge welded wire fencing to 4' (or higher in areas of heavy snow) will prevent beaver from cutting down trees. Leave a 1' gap between the fence and tree to allow the tree to continue growing.
- Another option to protect your trees is to mix 5 ounces of mason sand with 1 quart of exterior latex paint and apply it to the first 3 feet of the trees.

Be Wild Aware Beaver Facts

The American beaver, *Castor canadensis*, is a large rodent that occurs throughout most of North America. Beaver are mainly nocturnal but are occasionally seen during the day. They do not hibernate, but may become less active during the winter.

Their soft pelts range in color from nearly black, brown, reddish-brown to blonde. Adults can weigh up to 60 lbs or more. Their most distinctive feature is their broad paddle-like tail, which they use like a rudder to navigate their watery environment. Beaver have four prominent bright orange incisors, two on top and two on the bottom. These teeth never stop growing; so beaver must constantly file them down by gnawing on trees and grinding their teeth together.

Females may have a litter of one to nine young each year during the spring or early summer. Beaver are herbivores eating primarily woody material, such as aspen, in the winter, and green aquatic and riparian vegetation in the summer.

Beavers once numbered in the millions throughout North America. Highly prized for their lustrous pelts, beaver populations were decimated by fur trapping during the 1700s and 1800s to supply a worldwide demand for warm and fashionable accessories. Beaver have since re-colonized a large portion of their former range; however loss of habitat due largely to competing land uses has severely limited populations in many areas throughout Utah.

Legal Status

Beaver in Utah are considered furbearers and are classified as protected wildlife. Beaver can be taken with a license in an annual trapping season. The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) is responsible for their management. Beavers can be taken from a site of conflict at any time with a special permit from UDWR.



Photo UDWR